India

Poona and Indian Village Mission.

FACTS ABOUT INDIA.

The population is now nearly 300,000,000.

It increases at the rate of 3,000,000 annually.

The number of women is about 140,000,000, of these, 38,000,000 are girls under the age of 15; 24,000,000 are widows; 78,000 are widows under the age of 9 years. It is truly said of an Indian woman that she is unwelcome at birth, untaught in childhood, enslaved when married, accursed as a widow, and unlamented when she dies.

In India 40,000,000 people live on one scanty meal a day.

Every hour 1,200 pass into eternity.

In three months, a number equal to the population of the whole of Australasia, pass into unlamented and Christless graves.

So multitudinous are the inhabitants of India, that if each placed a handful of dust upon every Anglo Saxon in India, they would all be buried 5 feet deep.

There are 57,000,000 of Mahommedans in India—they have increased by 6,000,000 during the last ten years.

There are 207,000,000 of Hindoos—they have increased by 18,000,000 during the last ten years.

The Buddhists number 8,500,000.

There are 2,000,000 Christians. (professed.)

There are 600,000 villages and only one Missionary to every 400.

Each Protestant Minister in India has over 165,000 of the population to reach on an average.

There are nearly 400,000,000 Deities worshipped in India—some of the most revolting character. "They that make them are like unto them, so is every one that trusteth in them."

There are 105 different Languages.

While during the past 9 years Mahommedanism has increased at the rate of 10½ per cent, the Christian population amongst the Native has increased 64 per cent.

There are 200,000 deaf and dumb.

There are 200,000 Lepers.

There are several Native States without a Missionary, one with 3,000,000 with only one Missionary.

The area of India is more than eighteen times that of Great Britain.

THE

POONA & INDIAN VILLAGE MISSION

Is an association of Missionaries labouring in India under a deep sense of India's pressing need, with an earnest desire, constrained by the love of Christ, to bring the Gospel within the hearing of the perishing millions of *this generation*, who are dying at the rate of 1,200 an hour; feeling that the command to preach the Gospel to "every creature," places the solemn responsibility upon the Church of God to reach *all the heathen of its own day*. The Mission is strictly evangelical, unsectarian and interdenominational.

It accepts duly qualified men and women as Missionaries without restriction as to denomination; it makes no collections, but obtains its income from contributions sent entirely without personal solicitation; it guarantees no income to its Missionaries, providing them only with such assistance as its means will allow.

The needs of the work are laid before God in prayer; no more is expended than is received, going into debt being considered inconsistent with the principle of entire dependence upon God.

It has Councils in the chief centres of Australasia who manage all the Home business.

In India there is a Council formed of the Members—with Director, Superintendent, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The Pioneer of the Mission, Mr. Charles F. Reeve, left Australia in January 1893 for Poona, with Wife and Family and one other worker; a fort-night later another followed, and work amongst English-speaking Natives, Eurasians, and Europeans was commenced. In March 1894 two other workers arrived, strengthening the hands of those who were pressed with work from the many open doors. Pioneer visits were now commenced to the Native State of Bhor, which was then without a Missionary and its need appalling. At this time Mrs. Reeve returned to Australia with her children, on account of ill heath and bereavement through malaria.

In August 1894 the Director, Mr. Reeve, left for Australia with a view of obtaining more workers, and on 20th May, 1895, Mr. Reeve returned to India with five gentlemen, who

after a few months study of the Marathi Language were distributed in the Bhor State, in company with some experienced Native workers.

Other workers continued to arrive; Dec. 1895, one gentleman; Feb. 6th 1896, a converted Indian Student joined; Feb. 16th the first two ladies arrived; March 2nd, one gentleman; March 30th, a worker and wife, and in December, two other gentlemen.

On the 3rd August, 1896, the Director again visited Australia and New Zealand for more workers, and returned on October 12th, 1897, with a party of 20 ladies and 11 gentlemen.

Several stations have been opened in the Bhor State buildings have been erected, and others are in course of erection.

The Native State of Phaltan has been visited and land obtained in the Phaltan city, which we trust will soon be occupied as a station.

In Poona itself four large Bungalows are rented for the Students of the Language. A large and airy Hall is used every day for Bible expositions, lectures &c., and evangelistic meetings, which are attended by the Mission Students, Native Students, Eurasians, English civilians, and Soldiers from the Barracks.

There are usually about 3,000 or more Soldiers stationed at Poona (the military depôt of the Presidency) and a worker and his wife devote themselves specially to this work, and are aided by the students as they have opportunity. Many have been turned from the power of Satan unto God.

Applications have come to the P. & I. V. M. for workers for other Districts, where, as in the Phaltan State, no Missionary is at present working.

Two of the Lady Workers are trained Hospital Nurses, and we hope soon to see their number increased with the addition also of a Medical man for the Hospital, which is soon to be erected.

Prayer is being made for an immediate increase of 100 Workers but far more than these are required as very much land yet remains to be possessed.

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